

Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
Creating Opportunities for Nature and People

June 13, 2008

Mr. Joe Yun
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Draft guideline development for Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management and Proposition 1E Stormwater-Flood Management programs

Dear Mr. Yun,

On behalf of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP), I am writing to provide comments related to the development of Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and Proposition 1E Stormwater-Flood Management grant guidelines.

The Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners is a leadership and advocacy organization with a local focus that works to form partnerships, implement projects, educate the public and secure funding for wildlife and their habitats in the Tulare Lake Basin. We work with individual businesses, non-profits, and agency partners to maximize the benefits of our shared wetland and upland resources.

We are involved in efforts to create an umbrella group under a JPA to bring together the multiple IRWM planning efforts that are underway in the Tulare Basin region. Currently, Kaweah Basin, Upper Kings Forum, Tule River, Poso Creek and newly forming Kern County and Southern Sierra IRWM plans are all either already signatories to the Basin-wide JPA or invited to join. Given this ambitious planning effort, we would like to request that when defining the Region Assessment Process, DWR will encourage regions to collaborate on broad-scale plans. As part of this effort, DWR may want to consider giving preference to IRWM plans that undertake large-scale, multiple stakeholder planning efforts.

Each region in the state has different priorities and water management needs. As such, we would like to support DWR's decision to place the decision-making power for setting regional priorities in the hands of the individual regions. We ask that the decision-making power remain with the regions. Working toward this goal, TBWP and is working with the Tulare Region to draft natural resource/environmental restoration scoring criteria for IRWM planning in our region.

The Tulare Basin IRWM subregions are greatly impacted by water scarcity. We would like to encourage DWR to fund projects, through the stormwater flood management program, that will

provide new local water supply for our region through stormwater-flood management, including the capture, treatment and reuse of stormwater for groundwater replenishment.

Finally, we request that DWR clearly define the process for updating existing planning efforts to meet Proposition 84 requirements. We encourage DWR to provide guidance and funding for planning efforts as quickly as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments in regard to the development of the Proposition 84 IRWM and Proposition 1E Stormwater-Flood grant programs guidelines. We look forward to working with you as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Carole K. Combs

Carole K. Combs
Executive Director

cc: Mr. John Woodling, DWR
Mr. Mark Cowin, DWR
Ms. Tracie Billington, DWR

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